

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph of Page 2 beginning on line 2 should read as follows:

For the techniques related to face recognition, various methods are known. For example, a face recognition technique using an eigenspace method based on principle component analysis (Moghaddam et al., “Probabilistic Visual Learning for Object Representation”, IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, Vol. 17, No. 7, pp. 696-710, 1997) and that based on discriminant analysis (W. Zhao et al., “Discriminant Analysis of Principal Components for Face Recognition”, Proceedings of the IEEE Third International Conference on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition, pp. 336-341, 1998) are known. In addition, a face identification method using independent component analysis is known (Umeyama et al., “Kyoshi-tsuki Dokuritsu Seibun Bunseki wo mochiita Kao no Dotei nitsuite [Face Identification Using Supervised Independent Component Analysis]”, The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers, PRMU99-27, 1999).

The paragraph on Page 3 beginning on line 1 should read as follows:

In addition, an image matching method for dividing an image into local image areas to perform template matching is known (Saitoh, “Burokku Shogou Tohyo-shori wo Mochiita niyoru Shahei ni Gankyo na Tenpureito Tsuyoi Gazou Macchingu [Robust Template Image Matching for Occlusion Using Vote by Block Matching]”), IEICE Transactions, Vol. J84-D-II, No. 10, pp. 2270-2279). According to this method, matching is performed every local area to obtain an evaluation. Evaluations of the respective local areas are accumulated to calculate the evaluation of matching. Alternatively, evaluations of the respective local areas are applied to a voting space to calculate the evaluation of matching.

The paragraph on Page 4 starting on line 22 should read as follows:

Further, preferably, the vector projection means projects frequency feature vectors onto subspaces specified by basis vectors, which are previously obtained by the principal component analysis, discriminant analysis, or independent component analysis for the frequency features, to calculate ~~principal component~~feature vectors.

The paragraph on Page 14 starting on line 22 and continuing on Page 15 should read as follows:

The above description relates to the case where one face image is registered and retrieval is performed using this face image. When a plurality of images of the face of one person are registered and retrieval is performed using one face image, for example, a similarity can be calculated ~~using~~for metadata of the respective registered face images.